

# 100 | BLACK MEN OF BIRMINGHAM, INC.

October 27, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support BellSouth / AT&T Merger, WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Commissioner

I am the president of the 100 Black Men of Birmingham, Alabama. As you know, many of our members are living on the lower end of the socio-economic scale. Any changes that can enhance our economic prosperity are welcome. That is why we are asking you to vote in favor of the AT&T / BellSouth merger.

The merger has the potential to provide great new benefits for African-Americans. For example, we understand that AT&T and BellSouth have discussed with the Commission precedent-setting merger conditions that are unmatched by any other communications provider. First, the newly merged company will offer \$10 broadband access to *all* residential customers within the new, combined company's service territory. Second, any current AT&T-BellSouth customer using dial-up service will be offered a free upgrade to DSL, including a free modem. Third, "stand-alone" DSL will be offered to customers at a competitive rate, thereby no longer requiring customers to also purchase voice service. Most importantly, AT&T and BellSouth have made a commitment to deploy high-speed Internet service to rural areas and lower-income living units. All of these provisions will have a tremendous positive economic impact for African-Americans.

Please help grow economic opportunities and improve the quality of life of African-Americans through *affordable* and *universal* broadband services by supporting the AT&T / BellSouth merger. We appreciate your assistance and your leadership

Sincerely,  
Cedric D. Sparks, Sr.,  
Cedric D. Sparks, Sr.-President

cc: Marlene Dortch, Commission Secretary